

Message Text

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54

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 AID-20 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01

AGR-20 EA-11 NEA-10 IGA-02 RSR-01 /163 W

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R 031330 Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5431

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E.(. 11652 DECON 7/3/74

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, MA

SUB: POSSIBLE LIMITATIONS ON EXPORTS OF SELECTED
FOODSTUFFS

REF: STATE 115785, STATE 125374

1. MADAGASCAR HAS NEVER BEEN TRADITIONAL PURCHASER OF
US GRAIN PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, THERE IS CHANCE THAT GOMR
MIGHT BE FORCED TO CONSIDER PURCHASE OF RICE FROM U. S.
DURING NEXT YEAGOIF TMHER SOURCES OF SUPPLY NOT AVAILABLE.

2. ACCORDING TO GOMR OFFICIALS, DURING PERIOD SEPTEMBER
1973 APRIL 1974 COUNTRY COULD FACE SHORTFALL OF 100,000 TONS
OF MILLED RICE ON DOMESTIC MARKET AS RESULT OF INADEQUATE
LOCAL PRODUCTION AND RECENT PROBLEMS OF PROCUREMENT FROM
FARMERS.

IN PAST FEW YEARS, GOMR HAS MADE UP BULK OF DOMESTIC DEFICITS
BY PURCHASES OF CHEAPER QUALITY RICE FROM SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST
ASIA, MOST NOTABLY FROM THAILAND, BURMA, AND PAKISTAN. (IN LATE
1972 AND EARLY 1973 MADAGASCAR ALSO OBTAINED 40,000 TONS
OF RICE FROM PRC, OF WHICH 10,000 WAS GRANT AID AND

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REMAINDER CONCESSIONAL SALES, PLUS 5,000 TONS FROM TANZANIA.) GOMR CAN BE EXPECTED TO TURN TO THESE ASIAN SOURCES FOR PURCHASERS OF CHEAPER GRADES OF RICE ONCE AGAIN THIS YEAR ALTHOUGH IT UNDOUBTEDLY HOPES TO OBTAIN SOME RICE UNDER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE -- JAPAN HAS ALREADY PLEDGED 5,000 TONS. (GOMR REQUEST EARLIER THIS YEAR FOR PL-480 RICE FOR FY 1974 WAS TURNED DOWN BY AID FOR LACK OF ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF RICE IN THAT PROGRAM.)

3. IF RICE CONTINUES TO BE IN SHORT SUPPLY ON WORLD MARKET AND IF GOMR IS UNABLE TO OBTAIN ADEQUATE AMOUNTS FROM USUAL ASIAN SUPPLIERS AND/ OR THROUGH FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, GOMR MIGHT CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF PURCHASING IN OTHER MARKETS INCLUDING US WHERE PRICES IN NORMAL YEARS TOO HIGH FOR DOMESTIC SALES IN MADAGASCAR. SO FAR, HOWEVER, MALAGASY OFFICIALS HAVE NOT INDICATED TO US ANY INTENTION TO PURCHASE RICE IN US. MENDENHALL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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